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Appl. No. 10/029,326

Attorney Docket No. 10541-282

I. Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus, comprising:

a storage medium for storing one or more encoded audio data files;
a data expander coupled to the storage medium for decoding the one or more encoded audio data files;

an audio output adapted to produce audio corresponding to an encoded audio data file that has been decoded by the data expander;

a personal computer network interface adapted to facilitate transfer of encoded audio files to an external storage device on a network; and

a personal computer bus providing a shared common pathway for transmitting data directly between the storage medium and the data expander and the audio output and the network interface.

2. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein the storage medium comprises a hard disk drive.

3. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein the storage medium comprises a flash memory device.

4. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein the audio output includes one or more speakers.

5. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 4, further comprising an amplifier to process an encoded audio data file that has been decoded by the data expander for transmission through the audio output.

6. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 4, wherein the one or more speakers can be selectively detached from said apparatus.

7. (Previously Presented): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 6, wherein the audio output further includes a terminal that is covered by

-2-

BRINKS
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ALONE

Appln. No. 10/029,328

Attorney Docket No. 10541-282

the one or more speakers exposed upon detachment of the one or more speakers and that is adapted to be coupled to an audio input of a vehicle audio system.

8. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein the audio output is adapted to be coupled to an audio input of a vehicle audio system.

9. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein the personal computer network interface includes an Ethernet port.

10. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 1, further comprising one or more fasteners adapted to cooperate with structural members of a vehicle audio system to allow rapid connection and disconnection of said apparatus to the vehicle audio system.

11. (Previously Presented): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus for connection to a vehicle and a computer network, comprising:

storage means for storing one or more encoded audio data files;

data expansion means coupled to the storage means for decoding the one or more encoded audio data files;

audio output means for producing audio corresponding to an encoded audio data file that has been decoded by the data expansion means;

a personal computer network interface providing transfer of encoded audio files from the storage means to an external device over the network and providing local playback of decoded audio files over the network without the need to copy the encoded audio data files to the external device; and

a personal computer bus for transmitting data between the storage means and the data expansion means and the audio output means and the network interface.

12. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 11, wherein the audio output means includes one or more speakers.

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Appln. No. 10/029,326

Attorney Docket No. 10541-282

13. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 12, further comprising an amplifier to process an encoded audio data file that has been decoded by the data expander for transmission through the audio output means.

14. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 11, wherein the audio output means are adapted to be coupled to audio input means of a vehicle audio system.

15. (Previously Presented): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus capable of selective operation as an addressable member of a wide or local area computer network, a standalone audio player, and an in-vehicle audio player, said apparatus comprising:

- a storage medium for storing one or more encoded audio data files;
- a data expander coupled to the storage medium for decoding the one or more encoded audio data files;
- an input key operably connected to the data expander;
- an audio output adapted to produce audio corresponding to an encoded audio data file that has been decoded by the data expander;
- a network protocol adapted to allow other members of said network to access the storage medium when said apparatus is operating as an addressable member of a computer network and having a network address; a network interface adapted to operably connect said apparatus to said network, said apparatus functioning as a server on the computer network to transmit data to another device over the computer network; and
- one or more fasteners adapted to cooperate with structural members of a vehicle audio system to allow rapid connection and disconnection of said apparatus to the vehicle operating system.

16. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 15, wherein the storage medium comprises a hard disk drive.

17. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 15, wherein the storage medium comprises a flash memory device.

BRINKS
HOFFER
GILSON
BLIONE

-4-

Appln. No. 10/029,326

Attorney Docket No. 10541-282

18. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 15, wherein the audio output includes one or more speakers, a headphone jack, and a connector for coupling the audio output to an audio input of a vehicle audio system.

19. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 18, wherein the one or more speakers can be selectively detached from said apparatus.

20. (Original): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 18, further comprising a rechargeable power supply.

21. (Previously Presented): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein said apparatus functions as an audio file on a wide or local area network.

22. (Previously Presented): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 11, wherein said apparatus functions as an audio file on a wide or local area network.

23. (Previously Presented): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein the personal computer bus is a parallel bus connected to the storage medium, the data expander, the audio output, and the network interface

24. (Previously Presented): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 1, further comprising a central processing unit connected to the personal computer bus in parallel with the data expander.

25. (Previously Presented): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein the data expander is directly connected to both the storage medium and the personal computer bus.

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Appln. No. 10/029,326

Attorney Docket No. 10541-282

26. (Previously Presented): An audio storage and reproducing apparatus as in Claim 15, further comprising a personal computer bus for transmitting data from the storage medium to the data expander and the audio output and from the storage medium to the network interface.

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-6-